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ACCOUNT
OF THE
DUBLIN GENERAL DISPENSARY
AND
HUMANE SOCIETY,
ESTABLISHED AT THE
DISPENSARY COURT,
No. 28, TEMPLE-BAR,
FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADMINISTERING
MEDICAL AND SURGICAL ASSISTANCE
TO THE
SICK POOR OF THE CITY,
AND OF RECOVERING
PERSONS APPARENTLY DEAD
FROM
DROWNING, SUFFOCATION, OR OTHER ACCIDENTS.

DUBLIN:

PRINTED BY P. BYRNE, 108, GRAFTON-STREET.

1793.



A C C O U N T
OF THE
DUBLIN GENERAL DISPENSARY, &c.

THOUGH the city of Dublin had been long eminent for the number and liberality of its charitable institutions, yet it was found that a numerous and useful part of the community still continued to suffer all the distresses attending protracted sickness, and its necessary consequence, poverty. To provide relief for this class of people, the DUBLIN GENERAL DISPENSARY was instituted in April 1785.

The object of this institution is to administer medical and surgical relief to such of the sick poor of the city as are able to procure for themselves the common necessaries of life, but cannot afford to pay for medicines or advice.—If the nature of the patients diseases permit them to go abroad, they receive medical and surgical assistance at the Dispensary; if otherwise, they are attended at their own homes.

A few words may be proper to point out the peculiar advantages of this institution.

1. The attendance of physicians and surgeons on sick artificers, at their respective places of abode, must render the situation of this deserving part of the community much better than it could possibly be in the best regulated hospital. In the time of sickness, the attention and tenderness of relations and friends are peculiarly manifested; their affectionate offices are the chief support of the sufferers, and not unfrequently contribute as much to their recovery as all the powers of medicine. This source of solace and hope is however excluded from an hospital; the pangs of disease are aggravated by a separation from all the patient holds dear; at the very time too that there is most need of their consolation and care. Besides, the delicate mind receives additional mortification from that indiscriminate collection of persons and diseases which is unavoidable in an hospital.

2. But even should these unfortunate people endeavour to stifle their feelings of personal distress, still there may be other circumstances which would effectually preclude them from the benefit of hospitals. It is well known that many of our working poor languish, and frequently perish under various maladies, for want of that medical aid, which the exigencies of life, and the care of procuring immediate necessities from day to day prevent them from seeking. The distressed artisan may submit with resignation to an inveterate disease which preys fatally on his health; but he cannot intermit his daily labour; he cannot repair to an hospital, and desert his helpless family; he knows that the least interruption of his labour would bring beggary and destruction upon them; he therefore endures in silence, till death put an end at once to his sufferings and his exertions.

3. To

3. To these considerations, which must strike forcibly upon every humane mind, we may add that those who labour under contagious diseases ought (for the sake of the community) to be kept apart from collections of people. Accordingly the governors of most hospitals in this city prohibit the admission of patients in fevers; so apprehensive are they of the danger which might accrue from introducing infection into places crowded with valetudinarians, who are extremely susceptible of every impression. But diseases of this kind occur very frequently amongst the lower orders of people in this city, particularly amongst tradesmen and manufacturers, whose sedentary occupations, together with the impure air which they breathe, enervate their bodies, and render them remarkably subject to the influence of contagion.

Lastly. Children are often affected with disorders which require confinement and constant attention; but to this interesting and valuable class of mankind, it must be evident that hospitals are not at all adapted.

Hence it appears that however numerous our hospitals are, however liberally supported, judiciously conducted, and assiduously attended, an institution which can obviate the evils that have been described is still necessary.

This assertion is corroborated and illustrated in the strongest manner, by the advantages which have been found to accrue from the DUBLIN GENERAL DISPENSARY since the time of its institution, and by the generous support which it has received from the public.

Since the commencement of this charitable establishment advice and medicines have been administered

nistered to upwards of *eight hundred patients annually*. The benefits of this institution are not confined within the precincts of any one parish, nor subsidiary to any particular interest. Its plan is enlarged and liberal; and its professional supporters, elected by the governors at large, officiate without local advantage, or pecuniary compensation.

The benevolent labours of the physicians and surgeons of this institution are moreover extended to the recovery of persons apparently dead from drowning, suffocation and other accidental causes. Humane societies established for this purpose alone in other countries, have experienced a warmth and liberality of support worthy of the sublime and generous principle by which they are actuated. This metropolis stands scarcely less in need of such philanthropic exertions than any other part of the world; and the increasing number of our canals renders such melancholy accidents as require this aid, still more frequent. TO RESTORE THE LIVES OF SUCH HUMAN BEINGS AS ARE RECOVERABLE, the physicians and surgeons have provided, at the Dispensary, complete apparatus; they are always happy to attend either at the Dispensary or elsewhere on such occasions; they give rewards to such persons as afford them prompt and effectual assistance; and they have published *Plain Instructions* for the recovery of persons apparently dead, and diffused them as extensively as possible, so that every one may know *the inestimable art of saving the life of a fellow-creature*.

The objects and the labours of the physicians and surgeons of the Dublin General Dispensary are now laid before the public. Their humanity is confidently called upon, and their liberality earnestly implored, to persevere in upholding an institution

stitution founded in pure benevolence, conducted with perfect disinterestedness, and productive of the most valuable blessings the poor can experience, restoration to health, and resurrection to life.

✻ Benefactions will be received by His Grace the DUKE of LEINSTER, President; the Right Honourable LORD DONOUGHMORE, Vice-president; Sir WM. GLEADOWE NEWCOMEN, Bart. and Co. Treasurers; and by Mr. CHARLES HODGKINSON, the Apothecary and Collector of Subscriptions, at the *Dispensary Court, No. 28, Temple-bar.*

INSTRUCTIONS

FOR THE RECOVERY OF
PERSONS APPARENTLY DEAD:

PUBLISHED BY THE
HUMANE SOCIETY

OF
PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS

OF THE
DUBLIN GENERAL DISPENSARY,

NO. 28, TEMPLE-BAR.

IN CASES OF DROWNING,

AS soon as the body is taken out of the water, wipe it well, and wrap it in dry clothes: then carry it carefully, and with the head somewhat raised, to the next convenient house.

Take notice that hanging the body by the heels, swinging it, rolling it on a cask, and all such rough treatment are extremely improper, and may prevent the proper means of recovery from succeeding afterwards.

First,

First, ENDEAVOUR TO RESTORE THE BODY'S NATURAL WARMTH, by laying it on a bed before a moderate fire, and by applying bladders or bottles filled with moderately warm water, or warm bricks wrapped in cloths, or any other warm substances that may be at hand, such as warm grains from a brew-house, warm malt from a malt-house, or the finer warm ashes of a glass-house, &c. Apply warmth in this manner, especially to the chest, belly, arm pits, groins, and hams. But take care that nothing be applied hotter than the natural warmth of a living body.

Secondly, while the body is thus regaining warmth, ENDEAVOUR TO MAKE IT BREATHE AS LIKE THE NATURAL MANNER AS POSSIBLE. For this purpose put the nose of a common bellows up one of the nostrils; let an assistant at the same time close the other nostril, and the mouth; then blow in air till the chest be raised; immediately open the mouth, and press gently on the chest till the air pass out; then close the mouth, and blow in fresh air as before; let this out, and so go on.

If the chest be not raised when you blow air into the nostrils as above described, the air gets into the stomach instead of the lungs; which may be prevented by pressing backwards the lower part of the apple of the throat, or stiff bony-like substance that juts out more than the rest of the windpipe.

Observe that the purer the air thus blown into the lungs, the more will it tend to restore life. On this account the windows should be kept open, and no more persons admitted into the room than are absolutely necessary.

Thirdly, ENDEAVOUR TO PROMOTE THE CIRCULATION OF THE BLOOD, by rubbing the limbs with
B flannel

flannel moistened with sweet oil, or with the hand oiled.

Do not rub the body with salt, or sand, or coarse cloths, which would take the skin off, and might afterwards cause dangerous sores.

These are the principal means of recovery, and ought to be steadily employed at least *four hours*, if signs of life should not sooner appear; for people have been brought to life, after having been to all appearance dead, for even a longer time.

Besides using the above means, IT IS PROPER ALSO TO GIVE A CLYSTER, which may be made of two table spoonfuls of common salt dissolved in a pint of warm water, and half a naggin of spirits.

If an electrical machine be at hand, let slight shocks be passed from one side to the other, a little above the middle of the chest, at such times as the chest is raised by the air blown into the lungs.

The nostrils should sometimes be tickled with a feather dipped in hartshorn; and hartshorn, or smelling salts should be held to the nose. These are especially proper when any signs of recovery appear; such as sighing, gasping, twitchings or convulsions, opening the eyes, &c.

If the person recover so as to be able to swallow, cover him up warmly in bed and give him now and then a little warm wine, or brandy and water.

In attempting to recover persons apparently dead, beside observing the cautions already given, let no one venture to cut the windpipe, to give clysters of tobacco smoke, to give vomits, to pass shocks of electricity through the head, nor even to let blood without the advice of a physician or surgeon.

WHEN APPARENT DEATH ARISES FROM OTHER CAUSES,

THE same means of recovery are to be pursued; except that in cases of suffocation from the fumes of sulphur, charcoal, &c. the body should be placed in the open air, and the face frequently sprinkled with cold water: in cases of hanging, bleeding is proper: In cases of being frozen, the body should be first rubbed with snow, and warmth afterwards applied very gradually: and in cases of drunkenness, when any signs of recovery appear, a vomit ought to be given, instead of wine or any cordial.

✂ At the *Dublin General Dispensary* in the Court No. 28, *Temple-bar*, there are a number of conveniencies which cannot readily be procured elsewhere. A body apparently dead, but supposed to be recoverable, may be brought there at any time. The physicians and surgeons will readily attend either there, or elsewhere when sent to, and will reward the assistants liberally. They will also give the owner of any house who receives a body supposed to be recoverable and affords proper accommodation, a guinea reward; and if the case prove unsuccessful will pay the charges of burial.

THE
PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS
OF THE
DUBLIN GENERAL DISPENSARY,
AND
HUMANE SOCIETY.

Dr. DICKSON, *State Physician, and Professor of the Practice of Medicine in the University, Trinity College.*

Dr. BELL, York-street.

Dr. KENNEDY, Aungier-street.

Dr. PELLISSIER, French-street.

Dr. WADE, Capel-street.

Dr. CLEGHORN, *Professor of Anatomy and Surgery in the University, Marlborough-street.*

Dr. RYAN, Arran-quay.

Mr. ARCHER, *State Surgeon, and Lecturer on Surgical Pharmacy in the College of Surgeons, St. Andrew's-street.*

Mr. HARTIGAN, *Lecturer on Anatomy in the College of Surgeons, Ann-street.*

Mr. GRAYDON, Jervis-street.

Mr. LEAKE, *City Surgeon, Pitt-street.*

Mr. RICHARDS.

Mr. HALLAHAN, *Lecturer on Anatomy in the College of Surgeons, Gloucester-street.*

Mr. MACKLIN, Anglesea-street.

Apothecary, Secretary, and Collector of Subscriptions, Mr. CHARLES HODGKINSON, Dispensary-court, No. 28 Temple-bar.

RULES

R U L E S

OF THE

DUBLIN GENERAL DISPENSARY.

OF THE GOVERNORS.

THE governors of the Dublin General Dispensary consist—1st, of such persons as pay each a guinea or upwards annual subscription, or five guineas or upwards at a time (which latter subscription constitutes the subscriber a governor for life.)—2d, of the physicians and surgeons for the time being—3d, of such clergymen as have either preached charity sermons for the benefit of the Dispensary, or granted the use of their house of prayer for that purpose within the year.

The date of the annual subscription of governors commences on the 1st day of January, and ends on the last day of December in each year.

After the 1st day of July in each year, any person subscribing half a guinea has the privilege of recommending patients to the Dispensary until the end of December ensuing, but is in no other respect to be considered as a governor.

Parishes, or other public bodies subscribing a sum not less than five guineas annually, are entitled to recommend patients in proportion to the sum subscribed, within the year commencing on the 1st of January;

January; the recommendations to be signed by some one officiating minister, curate, or church-warden of the parish, or by some one officer appointed for that purpose from any other public body; such persons however to be in no other respect considered as governors.

2. Each governor, or public body subscribing for a year has the privilege of having one patient constantly attended for each guinea subscribed. Annual or life subscriptions doubled, trebled, &c. confer the privilege of having two, three or more patients constantly attended. *But it is expected that no patients will be recommended who are destitute of the common necessaries of life, as they are proper objects only for hospitals.*

Any governor by sending a written notice to the Dispensary may appoint any other governor to sign his or her letters of recommendation.

3. All the governors of the Dispensary have an equal right in its regulation; but for the more orderly dispatch of business, the governors annually appoint a committee of visitors, consisting of a president, vice president, treasurer and twelve governors, who engage to pay such especial attention to the affairs of the charity as their other avocations will permit. To this committee, of whom three is a quorum, is delegated the right of regulating the business of the charity, as far as concerns its receipts and expenditures. But every governor has a right of sitting and voting with this committee, and of inspecting at all times the accounts of the funds of the charity.

4. A general meeting of the governors is held on the first friday of January in every year, for
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the purpose of receiving the report of the committee of visitors appointed the preceding year, and of electing another for the ensuing year.

A general meeting may also be summoned at any other time, either by the committee of visitors, or by any five governors, a week's public notice being given by the secretary in *Faulkner's Journal* and *Saunders's News Letter*, and the purpose of the meeting being specified in the advertisement.

5. None of the rules of the institution can be altered, except by the governors at large, duly summoned for the purpose.

6. The governors at large have the power of electing the physicians, and surgeons of the Dispensary; provided they chuse them from among the fellows or licentiates of the colleges of physicians and surgeons.

The person who officiates as apothecary, secretary and collector is elected by the medical association of the Dispensary, but his election is not valid until approved of by the governors at large.

The necessary servants are appointed by the apothecary with the consent of the medical association.

OF THE PATIENTS.

1. The only objects of this charity are such sick or diseased persons as reside in the city, and are too poor to afford paying for medicines or advice, but are not destitute of the necessaries of life.

2. Patients the nature of whose complaints permits them to go abroad are to meet the attending physician

physician on mondays, wednesdays and fridays, or the attending surgeon every day in the week, sunday excepted, at the Dispensary. Attendance commences at ten o'clock.

3. Patients the nature of whose cases requires confinement may send their letters of recommendation at any time to the Dispensary, from whence they will be forwarded to the physicians and surgeons, and the patients will be visited on the succeeding day, or in cases of emergency as soon as possible.

4. The attending physicians and surgeons will discontinue the benefits of the charity to any patients who act in a disorderly manner, or neglect to pursue the directions pointed out to them.

OF THE PHYSICIANS, AND SURGEONS.

1. The medical association of the Dublin General Dispensary consists of seven physicians and seven surgeons, by whom is undertaken the care of fifty-six home patients at a time, or more if their other avocations permit. They will also assist, whenever called upon, in endeavouring to recover persons apparently dead, from drowning, suffocation, or other accidents.

D U T Y

OF THE

APOTHECARY, SECRETARY, and COL- LECTOR of SUBSCRIPTIONS.

AS APOTHECARY,

1. **H**E is to compound and dispense the medicines according to the prescriptions of the physicians and surgeons.

2. All medicines issued by him are to be labelled; printed labels are to be provided for him, and the blanks he is to fill up with specific directions.

3. He is to keep an exact registry of all the patients of the Dispensary, inserting in separate columns their names, places of abode, dates of admission, governors names by whom recommended; and leaving blanks for the insertion of the name and event of the disease.

4. He is to take charge of all the pharmaceutic apparatus of the Dispensary: to procure from time to time, from the druggist appointed by the medical association, such drugs, spirits, sugar and other necessaries as may be directed by the attending physician and surgeon. He is to keep an order book for drugs, spirits and sugar; and a separate order book for other necessaries. When he requires spirits for tinctures he is to make an estimate of the requisite quantity, which he is to lay before the attending physician, and having procured what-

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ever

ever may have been then directed, he is, in a week afterwards, to produce the tincture, made as estimated, to the attending physician. He is to procure, at the requisition of any medical gentleman, any article of materia medica not mentioned in the list of the Pharmacopoeia propria, and he is to keep a separate account of such articles with their prices and the names of the gentlemen at whose desire they have been procured.

5. He is to reside at the Dispensary, and to attend every day, Sunday excepted, from ten till one in the morning, and from six till eight in the evening; and on Sunday from three till four in the afternoon.

AS SECRETARY,

He is to attend the meetings of the governors at large, of the committee of governors, and of the medical association, and to transcribe their minutes. He is also to issue summonses for such meetings when properly required.

AS COLLECTOR OF SUBSCRIPTIONS,

1. He is to give bond and security for 100*l*. himself and two sufficient sureties, for the faithful discharge of the trust reposed in him.

2. He is to collect, in the most assiduous, and respectful manner, the subscriptions and donations of the charity; when these amount to 20 guineas he is, within three days afterwards, to pay the same into the hands of the treasurer.

3. He is to keep an exact account of the income and expenditures of the charity, fairly drawn out, and always ready for the inspection of any governor who may desire to examine it.

4. He is to preserve all the bills, receipts, &c. belonging to the Dispensary.

DUTY

DUTY OF THE PORTER.

He is to take care of the Dispensary, to keep it clean, and to be obedient to the attending physician and surgeon, and to the apothecary, in all matters that concern the regulation of the Dispensary.

GENERAL STATE OF THE FUNDS,

OCTOBER 1, 1793.

	£.	s.	d.
Total amount of subscriptions and donations from the commencement of the Dispensary, April 18th, 1785, to October, 18th, 1793, —	1905	0	4
Expended at sundry times, —	1903	11	7½
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Balance in treasurer's hands, —	1	8	8½

But there is a balance of 8*l.* 12*s.* 11*d.*¹/₂. due for the fitting up of the present house in Temple-bar; and there are other expences for salaries, drugs, &c. which must accrue before the next year's subscriptions commence.

It appears that the average yearly expence of the charity is about 225*l.* computing from its commencement to the present time. It accrues as follows:

	£.	s.	d.
Salary of apothecary, secretary and collector, — — —	60	0	0
Porter's salary, — — —	18	8	3
Rent of the house, — — —	30	0	0
Drugs and incidental expences, —	116	11	9
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	£. 225	0	0
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F I N I S.